

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method to automatically activate a reserve resourcehardware component, comprising:

monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
comparing said load to a threshold specified in a resource usage policy; and
automatically activating said reserve resourcehardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating said resource usage policy after said reserve resourcehardware component is activated.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising balancing said load among said number of active resources and said activated reserve resourcehardware component.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- a) monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve resourcehardware component;
- b) comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) deactivating a resourcehardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve resourcehardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and
- d) indicating that said selected resourcehardware component is deactivated.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising signaling an event manager based on said monitored load as dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a predetermined occurrence.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a period of time.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy triggers a number of alarms when said threshold is met, and wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when a response to said number of alarms is not received.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating a configuration profile to include said activated reserve ~~resource~~hardware component, said update being made in response to said indication that said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component is activated.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising charging a user of said activated reserve ~~resource~~hardware component a fee, said charge being made in response to said indication that said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component is activated.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An apparatus for automatically activating a reserve ~~resource~~hardware component, comprising:
at least one computer readable storage media;
a resource usage policy stored on said at least one computer readable storage media; and

computer readable program code stored on said at least one computer readable storage media, said computer readable program code comprising:

- a) program code for monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
- b) program code for comparing said monitored load to a threshold specified in said resource usage policy;
- c) program code for activating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for indicating that said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component has been activated.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for selecting a reserve ~~resource~~hardware component to activate based on a hierarchical resource deployment scheme.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for signaling an event manager based on said monitored load when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for selecting said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component from a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

- a) program code for monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve ~~resource~~hardware component;
- b) program code for comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) program code for deactivating a ~~resource~~hardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and

d) program code for indicating that said selected ~~resource~~hardware component is deactivated.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising program code for returning said deactivated reserve ~~resource~~hardware component to a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
a configuration profile stored on said at least one computer readable storage medium; and
program code for updating said configuration profile to track the availability of each said resource.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus for automatically activating a reserve ~~resource~~hardware component, comprising:
means for monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
means for comparing said monitored load to a threshold specified in a resource usage policy;
means for activating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for tracking the availability of said number of active resources and said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for deactivating said reserve ~~resource~~hardware component based on said monitored load when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve processor.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve memory.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve processor.

Claim 28 (new): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve memory.

Claim 30 (new): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 31 (new): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.